



# Fall Creek Falls Activities August 19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>

Welcome to Fall Creek Falls State Park! Summer vacation time is here and what a great place to spend it! The park provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some hiking, picnicking, boating, swimming, and wildlife watching while taking in the beautiful scenery. We encourage you to take advantage of the programs we have arranged for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

**\*A parent or guardian must accompany youngsters 12 years old and younger.**

**\*Some craft programs may be limited to 30 participants due to limited supplies and space. First come, first serve.**

Stuart Carroll – Interpretive Specialist III  
Matt Brown – Park Ranger II  
David Vogt – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger

Jon Morris – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger  
Ross Robinson – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger  
Brittany McClure – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger

## **Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30am      **Devotional** – Randy Garrell will be hosting an interdenominational devotional at the Campground A Pavilion.
- 9:30am      **Canoe Float** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock to explore Fall Creek Lake. You may rent your canoe at the boat dock; first-come, first-serve.
- 10:30am     **Pine Cone Eagle Craft** – Bald Eagles have been seen regularly around Fall Creek Lake during the past year. Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make a model of our national symbol with natural materials.
- 1:00pm      **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 1:15pm      **Bear Call Craft** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall and learn some facts about the black bears that have been sighted in the park in recent years and make a bear call from recycled material.
- 1:30pm      **Backpacking Basics** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn what type of equipment to carry when backpacking and how to load your pack.
- 2:00pm      **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 3:00pm      **Skull ID** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn what our local critters have in their heads.

- 3:15pm **Tree ID Walk** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to go on a short walk around the area. Along the way, we will discuss tree identification techniques, as well as their role in nature and with man.
- 3:30pm **Young Birds and Parental Care** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to learn how birds care for their young.
- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.

### **Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:30am **Dogwood Refrigerator Magnets** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about dogwoods. Then, we will make a floral refrigerator magnet using natural materials.
- 1:00pm **Wheeler Farm Excursion** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Wheeler Farm to view some spectacular geologic features. Please provide your own transportation. Carpooling is recommended. This will be a moderately strenuous 2-mile roundtrip hike to a natural bridge and shallow but beautiful waterfall. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring along some water.
- 3:30pm **Wild Encounters** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn how to avoid potentially dangerous wildlife and what to do in the event an encounter.

### **Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

- 9:30am **Pine Cone Bird Feeders** – Meet Brittany at the Rec. Hall to learn how to make your own bird feeder out of pine cones.
- 11:15am **Tick Awareness and Prevention** – Meet Brittany at the Rec. Hall to discuss to the types of ticks in our area, the diseases they carry, and how to best avoid them. Come with your tick questions.
- 2:30pm **Horseshoes** – Meet Brittany by the basketball court in the Village for a fun and exciting game of horseshoes.

### **Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- 9:30am **Bracelet Making** – Meet Brittany at the Rec. Hall to make a stylish bracelet.
- 11:15am **Moths and Butterflies** – Meet Brittany at the Rec. Hall to learn about these beautiful insects as well as identification of species common to the area.
- 2:30pm **Ping-Pong** – Meet Brittany at the Rec. Hall to try your hand at a game of ping-pong.

### **Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- 9:00am **Paw Paw Trail** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a moderate hike along the Paw Paw Trail. This will be a good time to view some trees, birds, and other interesting sights. Bring along plenty of water.
- 9:30am **Natural History Hike** – Meet Jon at the Fall Creek Falls Main Overlook for a walk to Buzzard's Roost. We'll discuss the natural aspects of our park that make it special along the way.
- 10:30am **Dragonfly Plant Stakes** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about this diminutive and beautiful predator. Then, we will make a plant stake replica for your potted plants.
- 2:15pm **Plant/Tree ID Walk** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to go on a short walk around the area. Along the way, we will discuss plant and tree identification techniques, as well as their role in nature and with man.
- 2:30pm **Knot Tying** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn some knot tying skills.
- 2:45pm **Make a Lightweight Camp Stove** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make an alcohol stove using recycled materials. We request that children under 12 years old do not attempt this program due to sharp edges and difficult procedures.

- 3:00pm **Hike to the Base of Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Brittany at the Main Overlook of Fall Creek Falls for a short but strenuous hike to the bottom of the falls. Along the way, we will discuss our park's forest ecology and geology.
- 3:15pm **Fire Tower Tour** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Fire Tower. Please provide your own transportation. Carpooling is recommended.
- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.
- 7:30pm **Campfire** – Meet Brittany at the George Hole to learn about fire building, park history, native wildlife, and more! Be sure to bring your roasting sticks and marshmallows. You may want to bring along a flashlight to help you across the bridge.

## **Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00am **Pelts and Skulls** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to take a look at the skins and skulls for some of our local wildlife.
- 9:30am **Canoe Float** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock to explore Fall Creek Lake. You may rent your canoe at the boat dock; first-come, first-serve.
- 9:45am **Going Batty** – Join Brittany at the Nature Center to learn about the importance and lifestyle of these threatened creatures.
- 10:15am **Turkey Pen Ridge Hike to the Falls** – Meet Jon at the Campers' Check-In for a hike to the base of Fall Creek Falls. If you are staying in the campground, this is a great way to save gas and to see the falls.
- 10:30am **Azalea Blossom Refrigerator Magnet Craft** – Did you know that Fall Creek Falls State Park has 3 species of Azalea shrubs which produce spectacular white, orange or pink blossoms? Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make a refrigerator magnet from natural material that replicates these spring beauties.
- 1:00pm **Buzzard's Roost Hike** – Meet Brittany at the Main Overlook of Fall Creek Falls for an easy hike to Millikan's Overlook and Buzzard's Roost. Learn about native wildlife and geology while taking in the breathtaking views from some of the park's most popular overlooks. Wear sturdy shoes and bring plenty of water. Tick repellent is advised for this event.
- 1:15pm **Pine Cone Eagle Craft** – Bald Eagles have been seen regularly around Fall Creek Lake during the past year. Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make a model of our national symbol with natural materials.
- 1:30pm **Creek Walk** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a cool nature hike up the middle of Cane Creek. Be sure to wear clothes and shoes that you can get wet.
- 2:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 3:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 3:15pm **Fish of Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to learn some interesting facts about the freshwater fish in the area.
- 3:30pm **Park History Slideshow** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about the park's history and other valuable information about our park.
- 6:00pm **Local Spiders** – Meet Ranger Matt at the lobby of the Inn to learn about our native spiders' habits, identifying features, role in nature, and more! There will be a short, rolling slide presentation to watch from 6:00pm to 7:00pm and possibly some live specimens to observe and discuss. Stop by anytime during the hour.

- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.
- 8:00pm **Evening Nature Ramble** – Meet Ranger Matt at the Campers' Check-In for a nature walk around the golf course. This is the peak time to see some of the park's nightlife like deer, raccoons, frogs, etc. If it's clear, we may look at a star or two as well.
- Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**
- 8:45am **Rock Hop** – Meet Ranger Matt at the Nature Center for a technical and strenuous off trail hike through Cane Creek Gorge. Along the way, we will see both Fall Creek Falls and Cane Creek Falls. Be prepared to navigate steep slopes, large boulders, and slippery surfaces. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water in your day pack. We do not recommend attempting this trip unguided due to the possibility of getting lost! The minimum age is 12 years, and persons with physical infirmities should not attend. This hike may take 2-4 hours.
- 9:00am **Cane Pole Fishing** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock and get ready to test your old-time fishing skills. Borrow one of our cane poles or bring your own rod. Kids under 14 years old fish for free. Persons 14 years old and older require a state fishing license and a park lake permit. You must provide your own bait. Bait and permits are available at the Boat Dock.
- 10:00am **Creek Critters** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to explore the park's underwater environment. Be sure to wear shoes that you can get wet.
- 10:30am **Basketball Games** – Meet Jon at the basketball court in the Village to play a variety of basketball games such as "Gotcha", "Around the World", and "Pick Up Games".
- 10:45am **Hummingbird Mobiles** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn some fun facts about our smallest bird species, the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. Then stick around to make a moving hummingbird sculpture using natural materials. This program may be difficult for children under 7 years old.
- 11:00am **Wildlife Jeopardy** – Meet Brittany at Picnic Shelter 3 (at the George Hole) to test your wildlife knowledge.
- 11:15am **Backpacking Basics** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn what type of equipment to carry when backpacking and how to load your pack.
- 1:15pm **Aluminum Foil Canoe Float** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall and build your own aluminum foil boat. Once it is completed, we will race it down the rapids of the Village stream to compete for a prize.
- 1:30pm **Cable Trail Hike** – Join Jon at the Nature Center for a short but strenuous hike down the Cable Trail to the bottom of Cane Creek Falls. This is a great opportunity to experience the grandeur of one of our park's most prominent geological features. Wear sturdy shoes and bring along some water.
- 1:45pm **Gilbert Gaul Hike** – Meet Ross at the Youth Camp 2 gate for a hike along the Gilbert Gaul Trail. This lakeside hike is a great place to view waterfowl, birds, beaver activity, and much, much more. Bring plenty of water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Tick repellent is advised for this hike.
- 2:00pm **Tie-Dye** – Meet Brittany at the Rec. Hall to brighten up your wardrobe! Bring your own or buy a t-shirt at the Rec. Hall for \$5 to support the Friends of Fall Creek Falls.
- 2:45pm **Fishing 101** – Do you want to catch more large fish? Come meet Jon at the Nature Center to learn some tips about fishing. Learn to tie some fishing knots. Also come see some lures that will help you catch more fish.
- 3:00pm **Native American Skills** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to discuss the tools, weapons, and lifestyles of the ancient peoples of Tennessee.
- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.

## Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

- 8:30am **Devotional** – Randy Garrell will be hosting an interdenominational devotional at the Campground A Pavilion.
- 9:00am **Hike to the Base of Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a 3-mile roundtrip hike to the bottom of Fall Creek Falls, the park's namesake. This is a moderately strenuous hike which you will view the area's varying forests and geology and learn a little about the park's history. Bring along plenty of water and wear sturdy shoes.
- 10:30am **Bear Call Craft** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall and learn some facts about the black bears that have been sighted in the park in recent years and make a bear call from recycled material.
- 1:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 1:15pm **Butterfly Plant Stakes** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make a colorful butterfly to decorate your potted plant or flower arrangement.
- 1:30pm **Snake Venom** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a discussion about the types of venom found in snakes around the world and how it affects the body.
- 2:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 2:45pm **Map and Compass Basics** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn the basics of using a compass and map.
- 3:00pm **Edible and Useful Tree and Plant Walk** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to take a casual walk around the Village area and learn how the trees and plants of the park have been used by Native Americans, pioneers, and modern people.
- 3:30pm **Piney Falls Ramble** – Meet Jon at the Piney Falls parking area for a short hike to view Piney Falls and the suspension bridge over Piney Creek. We will also learn about some of the park's history.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the EEO/AA Coordinator at 1-888-867-7455 or the ADA Coordinator at 1-866-253-5827 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service 1-800-848-0298.



### *Cool Nature Fact*

***Do you know that copperheads give live birth? Juvenile copperheads and cottonmouths have bright yellow tail tips that stand out against their camouflaged bodies. They wiggle this “lure” to attract lizards, their primary prey as young snakes.***

***Reptiles and amphibian ecology is one of the many topics discussed in the Fall Creek Falls 2½-day or 5-day Environmental Education Program for school groups. For more information, contact the Nature Center (423) 881-5708.***